

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 01603 311514Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

SY-10 A-01 OPR-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00

DRC-01 /094 W

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R 311047Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1382

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1603

BEIRUT FOR REGIONAL MARINE OFFICE AND RSO

ADDIS FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US SO PFOR PINT ASY

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT SIAD: U.S. MARINES

1. DURING MY OCTOBER 31 CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT SIAD ON MIDDLE EAST (SEPTTEL - NOTAL) PRESIDENT SIAD THAT A U.S. MARINE HAD BEEN CAUGHT "SPYING" ON NATIONAL DAY OCTOBER 21. HE SAID FORTUNATE THAT THOSE WHO APPREHENDED HIM HAD BEEN ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT WHO ORDERED HIS RELEASE; U.S. PERSONNEL SHOULD NOT SPY ON SOMALI DEFENSE FORCES; THIS IS HARMFUL TO HIGH-LEVEL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE US/SOMALI RELATIONS AND INFORMATION THEY OBTAIN COULD BE OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO A GREAT POWER LIKE U.S.

2. INCIDENT PRESIDENT REFERRING TO OCCURRED WHEN EMBASSY VEHICLE, DRIVEN BY EMBASSY LOCAL TAKING A MARINE GUARD FROM HIS WATCH AT EMBASSY TO HIS QUARTERS WAS DIVERTED BY PARADE ROADBLOCKS ON NORMAL ROUTE TO SIDE ROADS, WHERE IT EVENTUALLY CAME UP TO A MILITARY CHECKPOINT. CAR AND PASSENGER, WHO REMAINED INSIDE
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 01603 311514Z

CAR THROUGHOUT, WAS HALTED, DIRECTED TO NEARBY ARMY HEADQUARTERS,

DETAINED FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF AND THEN RELEASED AFTER INTERVENTION OF AN OFFICER WHO APPARENTLY CAME TO THE HEADQUARTERS ESPECIALLY FOR THAT PURPOSE.

3. I TOLD SIAD THAT ALL EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO OBEY SOMALI RULES AND SECURITY REGULATIONS. THE MARINE IN QUESTION WAS NOT "SPYING". HIS CAR, DRIVEN BY A SOMALI CHAUFFEUR, HAD BEEN DIVERTED BY THE POLICE THEMSELVES TO SIDE ROADS BECAUSE OF THE PARADE.

4. THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED THIS PORTION OF OUR CONVERSATION BY SIMPLY SAYING "OK".

5. COMMENT: PRESIDENT SIAD DID NOT MAKE A PARTICULAR POINT OF FACT THAT A "MARINE" WAS INVOLVED. HIS RAISING THIS MINOR INCIDENT WITH ME IS, I BELIEVE, MORE INDICATIVE OF HIS SUSPICION OF ACTIVITIES OF ALL U.S. PERSONNEL THAN A SPECIFIC TARGETTING OF MARINES IN WAKE OF AMIN'S ACTIONS IN UGANDA. AL PERSONNEL HERE, INCLUDING MARINES, ARE BEING INSTRUCTED TO KEEP THEIR HEADS EVEN FURTHER DOWN THAN USUAL.
KIRK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOGADI01603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KIRK
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973102/aaaaabkq.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <29-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT SIAD: U.S. MARINES
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ASEC, US, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005